

ST MATTHEW-IN-THE-CITY
AUCKLAND RAINBOW COMMUNITY CHURCH



CHRISTMAS READINGS AND CAROLS

13 DECEMBER 2020 8 pm

INTROIT

Matin Responsory (I looked from afar)

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1526-1594)

HYMN

CHOIR:

Come, thou, Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin-birth:
let every age adoring fall,
such grace befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed
the Saviour, now to us displayed.

ALL:

O equal to the Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness glow with new-born light,
no more shall night extinguish day,
where love's bright beams their power display.

O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

Words: St Ambrose of Milan (c. 340-397), tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866)
Tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur, melody by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
as adapted from 'Piae Cantiones', 1582, harm. G. R. Woodward (1848-1934). TIS 194

BIDDING PRAYER

Advent is a time of waiting, waiting with hope.
While the world around us
has already arrived at Christmas, we wait.
We wait and listen,
to better prepare ourselves
for the great mystery of the birth at Bethlehem.
As we wait this year
we hear told the story of the birth of Jesus.
As we listen we remember the needs
of the world around us,
especially those who suffer from loneliness and loss,
poverty and illness, violence and war.
We pray this night
with hope for justice and peace and goodwill
for all God's people.
These prayers we offer,
in the words of Jesus who taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

CAROL

Veni, veni Emmanuel

Trad. arr. by Phillip Lawson

READING

The Annunciation

CAROL

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl

READING

The Visitation to Elizabeth

MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat (Collegium Regale)

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

READING

The Birth of Jesus

CAROL

In the bleak midwinter (arr. Howes after Forshaw)

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

READING

The Shepherds

CAROL

Sussex Carol

Traditional (arr. by David Willcocks)

CAROL

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind),
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.

'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

'the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to all
begin and never cease.'

*Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)
Tune: Winchester Old. TIS 299*

READING

The Magi

CAROL

I sing of a maiden

Richard Madden (b. 1979)

READING

The Flight to Egypt

OFFERTORY CAROL ¹

Carol our Christmas, an upside down Christmas;
snow is not falling and trees are not bare.
Carol the summer, and welcome the Christ Child,
warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air.

Sing of the gold and the green and the sparkle,
water and river and lure of the beach.
Sing in the happiness of open spaces,
sing a nativity summer can reach!

Shepherds and musters move over hillsides,
finding, not angels, but sheep to be shorn;
wise ones make journeys whatever the season,
searching for signs of the truth to be born.

Right side up Christmas belongs to the universe,
made in the moment a woman gives birth;
hope is the Jesus gift, love is the offering,
everywhere, anywhere, here on the earth.

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Reversi, Colin Gibson. AA 9*

¹ *The collection for today's service will go to support City Mission HomeGround Building Fund.*

*For electronic giving option: text **stmatthew** to **818** to make a fast one off or ongoing donation by credit card to St Matthew-in-the-City. Or you can download the PUSHPAY app from Apple Store or Google Playstore and search for St Matthew-in-the-City.*

READING

"First Coming" by Madeleine L'Engle

CAROL

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

COLLECT AND BLESSING

CAROL

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Words: French trad., trans. James Chadwick 1860. Tune: Gloria, French Carol melody

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

ST MATTHEW'S VOICES

*Celia Aspey-Gordon, Ella Ewen
Eliana Dunford, Matthew Howes
Matthew Bennett, Nathan Hauraki
Blake Scanlen, Chris Adams*

Paul Chan, organ

PLEASE STAY FOR SUPPER

Christmas Service times:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Thursday 24 December | 7pm Nativity Service for Children |
| | 9.30pm Music with Brass Band |
| | 10.30pm Carols for Christmas |
| | 11.30pm Midnight Mass |
| Friday 25 December | 10am Christmas Sung Eucharist |
| | 5pm Christmas Day Service of
Auckland Rainbow
Community Church |

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Cover: Adoration of the Shepherds by Bartolo di Fredi

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132 Hobson Street Auckland City Auckland

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against
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MANATŪ HAUORA